

CHRISTIAN TECHNICAL NOTES

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP AND THE SABBATH DAY

by

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(1) Introduction

Generally, people believe what their teachers tell them. Christians are no different; they usually believe what their teachers tell them about the Bible without serious question. It is common for Christian teachers to tell Bible stories and expound Bible truths using very authoritative sounding voices and spiritually inspiring words. Many teachers become quite emphatic about their authority to speak "God's Truth", insisting that they know the truth, and give you the impression that God Himself is nodding His head in approval as they are speaking.

It's hard to imagine that the listeners of so eloquent and authoritative dissertations should be so unspiritual as to question the validity of what is being told to them. Is it unspiritual for a Christian to disregard all of the "spiritual fluff" and concentrate on the truth of what is being said? Yahoshua The Messiah warned that the listener must beware. He warned that spiritually sounding words, even if presented in the authority and name of Himself, Yahoshua The Messiah, does not mean that the words are correct. The teachers may use spiritually sounding words, spoken in the name of Yahoshua The Messiah, but their message, if believed, will lead into error.

"Take heed {beware} that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying [that] I am [the] Christ and shall deceive many {the majority of people}" (Luke 21:8; Mark 13:5; Matthew 24:4-5).

In order to not be misled into believing errors, it is important for Christians to always question what is being taught to them, regardless of who is teaching. The reason is that to believe an error is not a trivial matter. What Christians believe is manifested in what they practice. When a Christian believes something to be true, he will try to live by that belief. Christianity is not just philosophy or speaking spiritual words, it is also the practice and life-style of good deeds which demonstrate our commitment to and love towards Yahoshua The Messiah. Being a Christian is a way of life, not a mental-game.

The primary problem with Christians believing errors can be demonstrated by the following example:

A Christian decides to practice his Christianity by doing something every week that he believes is correct. He does this in good conscience, believing it to be a Christian thing to do. Yet, from YHWH's perspective and judgment, the practice which the Christian is engaged in is not in reality correct, but is really an error and is wrong for him to do it.

In this situation it can be stated that the Christian is practicing something under a deception. The deception is real even though the Christian may have the correct motives, a good conscience, and a happy heart. But in reality he is doing something in error that does not please YHWH. For one reason or another, the Christian's mind has been tricked into believing something which is not really true. He believes it to be true, but YHWH in heaven sees the truth, that it is wrong.

For the purposes of this paper, it is not important to engage in a discussion about the above Christian's resulting spiritual status with YHWH. Such a discussion would entail asking many questions: "Is he condemned for his erring ways?" "If so, how harshly?" "What about his having a good conscience?" "What about God's grace?" "What about law, obedience, and judgment?" "What about the many other circumstances which a just and merciful YHWH will undoubtedly take into account when the time comes?" As a point of fact, the scriptures remind Christians that it is not for them to make judgments about another Christian's spiritual status. Christians are to leave these questions and judgments to YHWH.

However, even without judging the person, it can be agreed that YHWH tells Christians not to practice sin, not to engage in errors, or to be unrighteous (I John 3:7), but rather to be holy, just as YHWH is holy (I Peter 1:15). After all, if YHWH is displeased by something that you do, how can you willfully continue to

keep doing it [Heb. 10:26]? Therefore, what may be said is that a Christian is not supposed to practice errors, and should therefore earnestly avoid being tricked into doing so.

(2) The Most Widely Accepted Error In Modern Christianity

Upon doing a little historical research into the subject of the Christian Sabbath Day, it becomes apparent that a major deception has been handed down from generation to generation of Christians. For over 1,700 years the majority of the western-Christian world has been taught, and has accepted without question, that Sunday is the Christian's day of worship, and have conducted their lives accordingly. Yet the scriptures, historical records, and direct quotations from every major modern Christian denomination, all agree that this commonly taught belief is an error. The truth is that YHWH's Sabbath day has always been, and has never been any other day, except (what today is called) Saturday, which is the seventh day of the week.

This deception regarding Sunday as being the Christian's day of worship, has been passed down from believer to believer, generation after generation, since the second century A.D. Most people have been taught that all Christians go to church on Sunday, and have not questioned this belief by comparing the doctrines of their church with the teachings of the Bible, or the history of the first century Christian Church. As both the scriptures and historical records show, there have always been large numbers of Christians, found everywhere in the world, who worship on the Sabbath day, and not on Sunday. Even the great Protestant missionary movement of the last two centuries discovered previously established and thriving villages of Sabbath-keeping Christian congregations in Ireland, Scotland, India, China, South America, Africa, and the Pacific Islands.

The practice of going to worship services on the day of the Sun (Sunday) instead of on the day of Rest [Saturday] is a deception that was literally forced upon the congregations which were within the Roman Empire. Congregations outside of the Roman Empire were not influenced until later, and continued to rest on the Sabbath day.

Even within the Roman Empire, the practice of Sunday worship was not part of the earliest Christian communities, including the Gentile communities. As the historical records show, this deception was not made into a "Christian tenet of faith" until over 300 years after Yahoshua The Messiah's resurrection. This means that about 15 generations of Christians were baptized, lived, and died knowing only the fourth commandment's Sabbath day as their day of rest and worship.

The Sunday worship deception was proclaimed as "the truth" by a decree made by the Bishop of Rome, circa 325-333 A.D. This decree was enforced by the emperor of Rome, Constantine. As described in the historical documents written at the time, the rationale behind making this change was to (quoting them): "separate Christianity from the Jewish religion as far as possible". To accomplish this all Christians under the domain of Rome were compelled to worship on a different day, that day being Sunday.

Also decreed at the same time was to keep the festival of Easter (Ishtar) instead of the Passover. Most older encyclopedias describe these events under the title of the "Quarto-Deciman Controversy". These (and other) decrees by the Bishop of Rome were the cause of a major (international) split in the Body of Yahoshua The Messiah, whereby most of the other Bishops (there were 14 other major Bishops) refused to go along with the decrees. Their reply is also preserved in the historical documents. They declared that the Roman Bishop was "mixing Christianity with Sun-Worship", which was completely unacceptable. As a result, most of the Christian congregations outside of the threat of the Roman armies rejected the Roman Bishop's decree, and continued as before to worship on Saturday.

The practice of going to church on Sunday was forced upon believers by decree, punishable by slavery or death, and was enforced by the Roman government's army and judicial system. Many Christians within the

Roman domain lost their lives, or were forced into slavery as the Roman magistrates enforced the Sunday worship decrees. Later, this practice included forcing all businesses to close, and everyone (the whole village) to attend Sunday worship in "Mass". Further, businesses were forced to be open on Saturdays, and work schedules had to include working on Saturdays. Still later this included forcing people to fast from eating food on Saturdays.

By the time of the Crusades and the Middle Ages, the practice of Papal enforcement included converting new members into the fold of the Roman Catholic Church by forcing them at sword point for confessions (oaths) and to submit to water baptism. Sometimes this was done in mass groups of entire villages, where everyone in the village was "converted" at once. As a result of such severe enforcement, over the course of many years, the western culture was transformed to regard Saturday as the opposite of YHWH's Sabbath day, believing it to be a day of business and labor. Likewise, Sunday became regarded as the opposite of the "Day of Baal", the day of the Sun-god, it is believed to be the day to worship to Christ. Since our schools primarily teach history from the Roman point of view, people never hear about the much larger communities of Christians which remained faithful to the practice of worshipping YHWH and His son Yahoshua The Messiah on YHWH's memorial day of creation, which to us is called Saturday.

Even having these facts behind the Sunday worship deception, since circa 330 A.D., this deception has been taught as being the unquestioned "sacred truth" in most Christian denominations. Most Christians living today, 1670 years later, are completely unaware that there could possibly be any problem associated with worshipping God on the day of the sun, rather than on His decreed time of rest on the Sabbath day. After all, think about it: One day honors the "God of the Sun", while the other day honors the "Creator of heaven and earth".

(3) Creation Week

In the book of Genesis, verses 1-25, the earth has been prepared for five days for YHWH's creation of mankind. On the sixth day YHWH created the first man and woman:

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth" (v. 26). "And God saw every thing that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day" (v. 31).

On the seventh day YHWH created the Sabbath Day:

"Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had made; and He rested on the seventh day from all his work which He had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made" (Gen. 2:1-3).

There are two Hebrew words in verses 2 and 3 that should be understood before proceeding, because they specify how the Creator YHWH views the Sabbath Day:

The Hebrew word 'quadash':

The word translated as "*sanctified*", comes from the Hebrew word 'quadash', and means "to be hallowed, holy, to consecrate, prepare, dedicate," and is a denominative verb. The verb 'quadash', being a denominative verb, connotes the state of that which belongs in the realm of what is sacred. Thus, a

"denominative sanctified" object is distinct from the "common or profane object", as it is a different realm. Therefore, the seventh day is distinct and set apart as being in the realm of "holy time", that is, the Sabbath is in the realm of what is sacred, in contrast to the other six days. It is a separated time-span, set apart from all of the rest of time.

The Hebrew word 'barak':

The word translated as "*blessed*", is the Hebrew word 'barak', and means "to kneel, praise or salute." The word's major function is to confer honor, worship, high esteem and acknowledgment. For YHWH to bless, as in Genesis 2:2-3, means that YHWH has taken notice of the seventh day, and has saluted it with His favorable esteem. He has acknowledged the seventh-day as sacred, in contrast to the other six days.

From these verses in Genesis it is apparent that the seventh day of the week has a very special significance to The Creator, since He gave it a special blessing and then set it apart as being sacred time. From the very beginning of creation, YHWH intended Adam and Eve, and all of their children, all races of men, to keep the seventh day rest as holy time. This is the one day a week specifically reserved to rest from our normal toils, and to worship "He who created all life", and to remember Him.

Also of note is that YHWH's sanctification of the Sabbath day had nothing whatsoever to do with the law of Moses, the Ten Commandments, or sacrificing animals. In contrast, it is important to note that the first day of the week, or Sunday, was not sanctified by YHWH anywhere in the scriptures, either in the old or the new covenant. Sunday worship was never introduced by YHWH, but was and is a creation and institution of men to worship the sun.

(4) The Seven Day Weekly Cycle

It is not by accident that the exact same seven day weekly cycle has been preserved throughout human history. The earliest reference to the seven day week is from Summer circa 2300 B.C. Another example is an Egyptian seven-pointed medallion that probably dates before the flood. Even though each culture had different calendars, and different names for each day, they still all correlated to the same seven day cycle to track time. For example, the word "Sabbath" or its equivalent meaning was used to define "Saturday" in nearly all of the ancient languages of Asia Minor. The seventh day has always been called and known by the word "Sabbath" or a close derivative. Of course men have invented other weekly cycles too, like the 10-day-week of China, but the seven day week has always existed throughout history.

Upon checking the common Gregorian calendar [with the exception of some calendars which are numbered for banking or accounting purposes], you will find, looking from left to right, that Sunday is the first day of the week, followed in order by [second] Monday, [third] Tuesday, [fourth] Wednesday, [fifth] Thursday, [sixth] Friday, and [seventh] Saturday. Saturday is the seventh day of the week in our modern world wide culture. If you have an opportunity to check older calendars, dating back as far as you can find, even from other countries, you will find the same relationship between Saturday and Sunday. Sunday is the first day of the week, and Saturday is the seventh day of the week. Further, it has been established that this seven-day weekly cycle has never been disrupted or broken, even back to the time of Adam and Eve.

Through archaeological digs, many ancient manuscripts have been found dating back to events occurring in each of the centuries between today and 600 B.C. These manuscripts provide recorded dates of astronomical events, dates of monumental battles, dates of weddings, dates of business transactions, and some include references to the Sabbath day. In every instance where a date is specified, and also provides reference to a Sabbath day, that date and the Sabbath day match exactly to demonstrate that the seven day

weekly cycle has never been disrupted. Calendar systems have come and gone, but the seven day weekly cycle has perpetuated throughout history.

One example:

"The Talmud the Steinsaltz Edition", Volume XIV Tractate Ta'anit Part II, Copyright 1995 by Israel Institute for Talmudic Publications and Milta Books, ISBN 0-679-44398-3, pages 206. It says the following regarding the destruction of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem, build by Solomon, and destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar's army, quote: **"When the Temple was destroyed for the first time at the hands of Nebuzaradan [captain of the guard], that day was the ninth of Av, and it was the day following Shabbat [day after Sabbath], and it was the year following the Sabbatical Year . . . And similarly when the Temple was destroyed a second time at the hands of Titus, the destruction occurred on the very same day, on the ninth of Av."**

"The Babylonian Talmud, Mishna Tract, 'Arakin 11b, quote: **"The day on which the first Temple was destroyed was the ninth of Ab, and it was at the going out of the Sabbath [i.e. that evening starting the ninth of Ab] and at the end of the seventh year. . . . The same happened the second time [the second Sanctuary's destruction]."**

In II Kings 25:8-9 we learn that the first Temple was destroyed in the 19th year (non-ascension counting method) of king Nebuchadnezzar. These ancient records provide a clear example of reporting two known events, the destruction of Solomon's Temple in 587 BC and Herod's Temple in 70 AD, as occurring relative to a Sabbath day.

Both in 587 BC and in 70 AD the observed calendar had the 9th of Ab as Sunday, that is the 9th began Saturday night as the Sabbath ended. The other years around these dates do not match these historical records. The years 588 and 586 BC do not match, and the years 71 and 69 AD do not match. Neither do they match when forcing the alleged "Spring Passover Rule" to be used. Only (the Julian evening of) 08/26/587 BC and 08/04/70 AD using the observed lunar calendar yield the 9th of Ab falling the next day after the Sabbath.

The fact that these two independent Sabbath references match demonstrates that the weekday in which the Sabbath day falls upon, Saturday, has not changed for the last 2,588 years, between now and 587 BC. Further, after the Exodus, circa 1485 BC, the Creator daily laid out the manna for Israel to eat, for the very purpose of demonstrating exactly which days were work days and which days were Sabbaths. Since Israel's culture and priesthood lineage has not been interrupted, it is easily projected that the weekly seven day cycle has not been lost throughout Biblical history.

(5) The History Of Sun Worship

Attending worship services on Sunday did not begin with the advent of Christianity. Sunday, the first day of the week, has been a religious day of worship throughout history. The activity of worshipping 'god' on Sunday was intentionally used to distinguish those who worshipped "Nimrod and the Mother and Child", in contrast to those who worshipped YHWH the "Creator God" on the seventh day of the week. This alternative worship system began over 4,300 years ago with Baal the father of Nimrod. Nimrod (who is Osiris) is the man who rebelled against YHWH, and was deified by Semiramis (who is Isis). Semiramis was Nimrod's mother, and his sister, and also his wife.

Shortly after the great flood, during the life time of Shem, the son of Noah, Nimrod and his mother Semiramis, founded the great religion which has survived to this very day. Nimrod rebelled against YHWH, and set himself up as this world's deity. Nimrod was the son of Baal and his daughter-Semiramis. Thus Semiramis was his mother, and also his sister, and later his wife.

Nimrod and Semiramis together killed Baal, took his name (the title "Baal") and started an underground (hidden or occult) priesthood with worship ceremonies. This was done in deliberate rebellion to the priesthood sanctified by YHWH through Noah and his son Shem. Because of the Dead Sea Scrolls we now understand that Noah and Shem started the "Melchizedek Priesthood" of YHWH, to which Yahoshua is now the High Priest. Through the centuries YHWH has always had His priesthood upholding His religion, even before Moses was born.

Shem, upon hearing of Nimrod's activities, and after repeated warnings, gathered an army and sought to capture him. Nimrod fled, but was eventually captured and executed for his rebellion. There is some suggestion that Nimrod's capture was in a cave in what is now Rome. The execution included the cutting of Nimrod into many pieces, whereby each piece was sent to a specific region of the world as proof of his death, and as a warning against following his rebellious religion.

Semiramis upon hearing of the death of her husband wailed loudly for him, and sought after and gathered each piece of Nimrod and reconstructed his dead body. It is said that Semiramis then brought Nimrod's body back to life long enough for Semiramis to have sexual intercourse with him (more probably with an obliging attendant) whereby she conceived "The Son of God". Semiramis then bore "Nimrod's only Son" called Ninus (who is Horus), "The Savior", or Tammuz. As proof that the child was the reincarnated Nimrod, only taking the form of a child, Semiramis claimed that she witnessed an evergreen branch grow out of a dead log in one night, the same night the child was born on the winter solstice. This evergreen is the Christmas Yule-log we know today.

Later, Semiramis was deified into the title of "The Mother, The Queen of Heaven", and the child-savior was portrayed as a child-god being held in her arms. The first "Mother and Child" nativity story began over 4300 years ago, 2300 years before Yahoshua The Messiah was born.

Incidentally, Ninus is listed as being the second Pharaoh of Egypt, and started the practice of believing that the King is also 'a god', and started Sun-Day-Worship services. The concept of a god-king has prevailed throughout history, and is still held to be true in Japan, believing that the emperor is a god.

Today, archaeologists find remains of temples and idols all over the world having the same common religious theme, the theme of the "Mother and Child" being worshipped as the "Queen of Heaven, and her child-god as "The Savior". This theme is not about Mary the mother of Yahoshua, this is about Semiramis the mother of Ninus.

For instance, in Babylon they worshipped a "Goddess Mother" and a "Son of God", who was represented as an infant in his mother's arms. In Egypt the Mother and Child was worshipped under the names of Isis and Horus. In India they are still worshipped as Isi and Iswara. In Asia they were worshipped as Cybele and Deoius. In Rome as Fortuna and Jupiter-puer, or Jupiter the boy. Other eastern nations worshipped Rhea, the "Great Goddess Mother". In Greece as Ceres the "Great Mother" with "the babe" at her breast, or else as Irene the "Goddess of Peace" and the boy Plutus. Even in the Orient the Jesuit missionaries were astonished to find the counterpart of the Madonna and her child being worshipped as Shing Moo, the Holy Mother and the "child in her arms". (Reference: "The Two Babylons", by Rev. Alexander Hislop. 1916. Loizeaux Brothers, Inc. Babylon Mystery Religion", by Ralph Woodrow. 1981. ISBN 0-916938-00X.)

It is well known by Bible scholars and archaeologists that the gods and goddesses of the ancient civilizations prior to Yahoshua The Messiah were all started from a single source. In these false religious alternatives, "The Lord" [Baal] was represented by the sun, and therefore those who worship "The Lord", worship him on his day, "The Lord's Day", on Sun - Day. This is in deliberate opposition of resting and worshipping the Creator on His Day, the Sabbath Day, which Yahoshua The Messiah declared was His day, telling us that He is "The Lord of the Sabbath Day" [Mat. 12:8].

(6) Israel And Sun-Day Worship

By studying the Bible Christians know that one of the primary false religions that the Israelites followed, when they departed away from YHWH's way, was to practice the worship of Baal. Baalism is known to be a religion of sun worship. The word translated as "**Baal**" is from the ancient Hebrew language and simply means "The Lord". When ancient Israel worshipped Baal they kept Sunday, because Baal-worship was sun-worship, and Sun-Day is the day when the sun-god is worshipped. As Sun-Day was Baal's day, or "The Lord's Day", the ancient Israelites kept the first day of the week as their day of worship, in contrast to YHWH's worship day, the seventh day Sabbath.

The contrast between Sunday worship and Sabbath-Day worship is not confusing. It is historical and very straight forward. Readers of the Bible do not become confused when they read the scriptures and find that the Israelites rebelled against YHWH by worshipping "The Lord" on Sunday. They do not become confused by thinking that "The Lord" (Baal) is just another name for "The invisible Creator God", and then begin to wonder why YHWH got all upset about a simple name variation? The worship of Baal, whether you call it the worship of "The Lord" or call it something else, is distinguished from the worship of the true Creator YHWH by what they did, not the words they used to describe their deity. What they did was worship 'their god' on Sun-Day, called it worshipping "The Lord", and thereby denied the Creator YHWH who decreed that He is to be worshipped on His Creation-Day, now called Saturday in English.

(7) History Of The Authority Of The Pope

As part of the doctrine of the sun-worship religion, they believed that the king, or emperor, was the direct representative of the sun god on earth. As such, the king was more than just mortal, but was king-god, or god-king. He was the only one in whom the highest level of the spirit of the sun-deity resided. This 'spirit' was not the Holy Spirit of YHWH, but the 'spirit' of the sun. This is why the pagan emperors were worshipped as god. The religious center representing sun-worship was transferred from Babylon, after the death of Belshazzar, to the city of Pergamos in Asia Minor, about 575 B.C.

In Revelation 2:13, Pergamos is called "Satan's Seat," and was the headquarters of the original Babylonian sun-worship until Imperial Rome began to take over the leadership around 50 B.C. This began in the person of Julius Caesar when, as emperor, he had supreme civil and religious rule.

"... When Julius Caesar, who had previously been elected Pontifex Maximus, became also, as Emperor, the supreme civil ruler of the Romans, then as head of Roman religion, **all the powers and functions of the true legitimate Babylonian Pontiff were supremely vested in him**, and he found himself in a position to assert these powers" (From Sabbath to Sunday, Samuele Bacchiocchi, 1977, p. 241).

In the year 46 B.C., Julius Caesar was made "Praefectus Morum" (supervisor of morals); that is, he was made head of all Roman religions. In the year 44 B.C., he was made dictator for life (see Langer's Encyclopedia of World History).

It is essential to understand that from that time forward, the Emperor of Rome was also head of the state religions. This did not change until Emperor Justinian, who reigned from 527-565 A.D., and submitted to the head of the Roman Catholic Church. **From that time forward, the Pope was acknowledged by the Emperor to be Pontifex Maximus over all religion.** The Pope now had supreme authority in religious matters and the Emperors had control of the political power of the state. **Notice that the line of authority**

to be called a "Pontifex Maximus" only comes from the authority of the sun worshipping priests of ancient Babylon.

(8) The Roman Calendar

The names of the days of the Roman week are very revealing in coming to understand about Sunday worship before it became a Christian institution. Sunday, or the day of the sun, was the primary day of pagan worship. Although other pagan gods had days named after them, only "dies solis" (Latin for "day of the sun") was proclaimed to be holy. The following describes how in pagan Roman times (before, during and after the coming of Yahoshua The Messiah), Sunday was the most prominent day of worship within the Roman Empire.

"There is no question that the existence of the planetary week with its Sun-Day (dies solis) is crucial for determining any influence of Sun-worship on the Christian adoption of Sunday observance, inasmuch as the Sun before the existence of a weekly 'Sun-Day' was venerated every morning" (From Sabbath to Sunday, Samuele Bacchiocchi, 1977, p. 237).

"The prominence of Sun-worship in the Roman Empire was attributed to two factors. First, it had been a part of the religious worship system of Pagan Rome for a long, long time. It was widespread, but not the official dominant religion." Next, the Eastern cult of sun-worship, 'Sol Invictus' (Invincible Sun), through the cult of 'Sol Invictus Mithra' and 'Sol Elagabal', became the dominant religion of the Empire. [Notice the 'bal' at the end of the name; this signifies that it incorporated ba(a)l worship.]

"Mithraism primarily was a private cult, though it numbered among its adherents magistrates and emperors. Sol Invictus Elagabal, on the other hand, was a popular cult with grandiose temples, and during the rule of the young Emperor Elagabalus (A.D. 218-222) was made the official cult of the whole empire" (ibid., p. 241).

"That the day of the Sun enjoyed preeminence already by the middle of the second century is clearly indicated by the famous astrologer Vettius Valens. In his Anthology composed between 154-174 A.D., in explaining how to find the day of the week of any given birth date, he explicitly states: 'And this is the sequence of the planetary stars in relation to the days of the week: SUN, Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, Saturn' " (ibid., p. 251).

"The 'dies solis' was evidently the most sacred (day) of the week for the faithful of Mithra and the gods have arranged the days of the week, whose names the Romans have dedicated to certain stars. The first day [of the week] they called the day of the Sun because it is the ruler of all the stars" (ibid., p. 250, footnote 53).

(9) The Early Church Worshipped On The Sabbath Day

Notice which day Yahoshua The Messiah kept while He was here on earth:

"...and as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up for to read." (Luke 4:16).

Not only was it the custom of Yahoshua to keep the Sabbath, it was also the custom of the apostle Paul, who was taught directly by Yahoshua The Messiah (Galatians 1:15-18), and preached to the Gentiles.

". . . And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath. Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas; who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. And the next Sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God" (Acts 13:41-44).

"And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three Sabbath days reasoned with them out of the Scriptures" (Acts 17:2).

It should be noted that the event in Acts 13 took place about 45 A.D., and the one in Acts 17 took place about 49 A.D. Here Paul is worshipping and teaching on the Sabbath day, week after week, many years after the death and resurrection of Yahoshua The Messiah. Also notice that Paul could have chosen to meet and teach them on Sundays, but he did not, he chose Sabbaths. The Sabbath day is the day to rest, and to meet for worship, and to learn YHWH's ways.

(10) Roman Catholic Church Confessions

The "Catechismus Romanus" was commanded by the Council of Trent, and published by the Vatican Press, by order of Pope Pius V, in 1566. This catechism for priests says:

"It pleased the church of God, that the religious celebration of the Sabbath day should be transferred to 'the Lord's day.' ", (Catechism of the Council of Trent (Donovan's translation, 1867), part 3, chap. 4, p. 345).

Notice that the celebration of the Sabbath was **transferred** to Sunday, and done so only by the authority of the Catholic Church.

"Question: How prove you that the Church has power to command feasts and holy days?"

"Answer: By the very act of changing the Sabbath into Sunday, which Protestants allow of; and therefore they fondly contradict themselves, by keeping Sunday strictly, and breaking most other feasts commanded by the same Church.", (Henry Tuberville, An Abridgement of the Christian Doctrine (1833 approbation), p. 58). (The same statement is in "Manual of Christian Doctrine ed.", by Daniel Ferris, 1916 ed., p. 67).

Notice that the changing of Sabbath worship to Sunday worship is one of the proofs which the Catholic Church uses to demonstrate that they have the authority to command holy days and feasts. Also note that the Protestants unwittingly submit to their authority by also worshipping "The Lord" on Sunday.

"Question: Have you any other way of proving that the Church has power to institute festivals of precept?"

"Answer: Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her; she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday the seventh day, a change for which

there is no Scriptural authority." (Stephen Keenan, A Doctrinal Catechism (3rd ed.), p. 174).

"The Catholic Church, ... by virtue of her divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday." (The Catholic Mirror, official organ of Cardinal Gibbons, Sept. 23, 1893).

Notice that the Catholic Church admits that they changed the day of worship to Sunday, not YHWH, or the Bible, or early Christian writings. Worshipping Yahoshua The Messiah on Sunday is a Roman Catholic tradition, not a Biblically sanctified practice. **Notice that this Sunday tradition is the primary sign of being under their authority. And remember that their line of authority comes directly from the occult priests of ancient Babylon, Pontifex Maximus.**

"1. Is Saturday the 7th day according to the Bible and the 10 Commandments? I answer yes.

2. Is Sunday the first day of the week, and did the Church change the 7th day Saturday for Sunday, the 1st day? I answer yes.

3. Did Christ change the day? I answer no!

Faithfully yours, J. Card. Gibbons." (James Cardinal Gibbons autograph letter).

Most scholars of the Bible and denomination leaders will admit that the practice of Christian Sunday worship is a tradition, not instituted by Yahoshua The Messiah, or prescribed in the New Testament.

"Question: Which is the Sabbath day?

Answer: Saturday is the Sabbath day.

Question: Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday?

Answer: We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday." (Peter Geiermann, The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine (1946 ed.), p. 50. Geiermann received the "apostolic blessing" of Pope Pius X in his labors Jan. 25, 1910).

The Catholic Catechism teaches its students the truth about Sunday worship and the Sabbath day. Why is it that most Protestant Christians are never taught these facts? Because to teach them would mean that the Protestant denomination would be admitting that they derive their own traditions and authority straight from the Catholic Church, not the Bible.

"You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify." (James Cardinal Gibbons, The Faith of Our Fathers (1917 ed.), pp. 72, 73).

"Nowhere in the Bible is it stated that worship should be changed from Saturday to Sunday. The fact is that the Church was in existence for several centuries before the Bible was given to the world. The Church made the Bible, the Bible did not make the Church.

"Now the Church ... instituted, by God's authority, Sunday as the day of worship. This same Church, by the same divine authority, taught the doctrine of Purgatory long before

the Bible was made. We have, therefore, the same authority for Purgatory as we have for Sunday." (Martin J. Scott, Things Catholics Are Asked About (1927 ed.), p. 136).

"Some theologians have held that God likewise directly determined Sunday as the day of worship in the New Law, that He Himself has explicitly substituted the Sunday for the Sabbath. But this theory is not entirely abandoned.

"It is now commonly held that God simply gave His Church the power to set aside whatever day or days she would deem suitable as Holy Days. The Church chose Sunday, the first day of the week, and in the course of time added other days, as holy days." (Vincent J. Kelly (Catholic), Forbidden Sunday and Feast-Day Occupations (1943 ed.), p. 2).

The Catholic Church claims to have the authority of God to change the day of worship. It says the same thing about Purgatory, and by extension to all doctrines. How many Protestant Christians are willing to submit without question to the Catholic Church to determine what they believe as doctrine? A national-poll does not need to be taken, just consider how Christians (both Catholic and Protestant) obey the Catholic Church on the issues of Birth Control, praying to Mary, and Confessionals. These doctrines also "have the authority of God" as claimed by the Catholic Church. Perhaps the real issue is not who **claims** to have God's authority, but rather in **believing** the scriptures which absolutely have YHWH's authority, letting the word of YHWH decide these matters. The word of YHWH tells His followers to worship Him on His day of rest, the Sabbath.

"Regarding the change from the observance of the Jewish Sabbath to the Christian Sunday, I wish to draw your attention to the facts:

"1) That Protestants, who accept the Bible as the only rule of faith and religion, should by all means go back to the observance of the Sabbath. The fact that they do not, but on the contrary observe the Sunday, stultifies {appears ridiculous} them in the eyes of every thinking man.

"2) We Catholics **do not accept the Bible** as the only rule of faith. Besides the Bible we have the living Church, the authority of the Church, as a rule to guide us. We say, this Church, instituted by Christ to teach and guide man through life, has the right to change the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament and hence, we accept her change of the Sabbath to Sunday. We frankly say, yes, the Church made this change, made this law, as she made many other laws, for instance, the Friday abstinence, the unmarried priesthood, the laws concerning mixed marriages, the regulation of Catholic marriages and a thousand other laws.

"3) We also say that of all Protestants, the Seventh-day Adventist denomination is the only major Protestant denomination that reasons correctly and is consistent with its teaching. It is always somewhat laughable, to see the Protestant churches, in pulpit and legislation, demand the observance of Sunday, of which there is nothing in their Bible." (Father Peter R. Kraemer Catholic Church Extension Society, Chicago, IL.).

"My brethren, look about you upon the various wrangling sects and denominations. Show me one that claims or possesses the power to make laws binding on the conscience. There's but one on the face of the earth, the Catholic Church, that has the power to make laws binding upon the conscience, binding before God, binding under pain of hell fire. Take, for instance, the day we celebrate Sunday. What right have the Protestant churches to observe that day? None whatever. You say it is to obey the commandment,

'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.' But Sunday is not the Sabbath, according to the Bible and the record of time.

"Everyone knows that Sunday is the first day of the week, while Saturday is the seventh day, and the Sabbath, the day consecrated as a day of rest. It is so recognized in all civilized nations. I have repeatedly offered \$1,000 to any one who will furnish any proof from the Bible that Sunday is the day we are about to keep, and no one has called for the money.

"If any person in this town will show any scripture for it, I will tomorrow evening publicly acknowledge it and thank him for it. It was the Holy Catholic Church that changed the day of rest from Saturday to Sunday, the first day of the week. And it not only compelled all to keep Sunday, but at the Council of Laodicea, A.D. 364, anathematized those who kept the Sabbath and urged all persons to labor on the seventh day under penalty of anathema.

"Which church does the whole civilized world obey? Protestants call us every horrible name they can think of, anti-Christ, the scarlet colored beast, Babylon, etc. and at the same time profess great reverence for the Bible, and yet by their solemn act of keeping Sunday, they acknowledge the power of the Catholic Church.

"The Bible says: 'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.' But the Catholic Church says, 'No, keep the first day of the week,' and the whole world bows in obedience." (Father T. Enright, Roman Catholic Priest, Kansas City, MO.).

"Incidentally, there is no proof in scripture that God willed the Sabbath to be changed from Saturday to Sunday, so that those non-Catholics who do not accept the value of tradition as a source of faith, should logically still observe Saturday as the Sabbath."

(This Is The Faith: Catholic Theology For Laymen, Francis J. Ripley, p. 176)

Notice again the certainty that each quote has. There is no mistaking the truth. Each quote boldly teaches that the holy scriptures do not allow for Sunday worship by Christians. Rather, the practice is solely based upon the authority of the Catholic Church. **Protestant denominations which keep Sunday, and say they are not under Catholic authority, are fooling no one but themselves.**

(11) Protestant Church Confessions

"The extracts that follow are from noted clergymen, scholars and other eminent writers, all of whom doubtless kept the Sunday as a matter of church custom. But they nevertheless bear witness that there is no Bible command for it." (The Bible Sabbath Association). Take special notice of the dates of the quotations, this subject is not new, and was never hidden.

ANGLICAN:

Sunday worship is not biblical, it is tradition.

"And where are we told in the Scriptures that we are to keep the first day at all? We are commanded to keep the seventh; but we are nowhere commanded to keep the first day ... The reasons why we keep the first day of the week holy instead of the seventh is for the same reason that we observe many other things, not because of the Bible, but because the

church, has enjoined it." (Isaac Williams (Anglican), Plain Sermons on the Catechism, vol. 1, pp. 334, 336).

Sunday worship is not practicing the fourth commandment, it is tradition.

"The Lord's day was merely of ecclesiastical institution. It was not introduced by virtue of the fourth commandment." (Jeremy Taylor (Church of England), Ductor Dubitantium, part 1, book 2, chap. 2, rule 6, secs. 51, 59 (1850 ed.), vol. 9, pp. 458, 464).

Early Christians worshipped on the Sabbath.

"The Primitive Christians had a great veneration for the Sabbath, and spent the Day in Devotion and Sermons. And 'tis not to be doubted but they derived this Practice from the Apostles themselves." (A Discourse in Six Dialogues on the Name, Notion, and Observation of the Lord's Day, p. 189).

BAPTISTS:

The transfer of Sabbath to Sunday worship is not biblical.

"There was and is a commandment to keep holy the Sabbath day, but the Sabbath day was not Sunday. It will, however, be readily said, and with some show of triumph, that the Sabbath was transferred from the Seventh to the First day of the week ... Where can the record of such a transaction be found? Not in the New Testament, absolutely not." (Paper read Aug. 20, 1893, by Dr. Edward T. Hiscox (Baptist), at a Baptist ministers' meeting at Saratoga, New York).

"The Lord's Day is not sanctified by any specific command or by any inevitable inference. In all the New Testament there is no hint or suggestion of a legal obligation binding any man, whether saint or sinner, to observe the Day. Its sanctity arises only out of what it means to the true believer." (J. J. Taylor (Baptist), The Sabbatic Question, p. 72).

CONGREGATIONALIST:

Sunday worship is not the same thing as Sabbath worship.

"It is quite clear that, however rigidly or devotedly we may spend Sunday, we are not keeping the Sabbath ... The Sabbath was founded on a specific, Divine command. We can plead no such command for the obligation to observe Sunday ... There is not a single sentence in the New Testament to suggest that we incur any penalty by violating the supposed sanctity of Sunday." (Dr. R. W. Dale (British Congregationalist): The Ten Commandments, pp. 127-129).

Sunday worship is not biblical, and was not originally called the Christian Sabbath.

"The Christian Sabbath (Sunday) is not in the Scripture, and was not by the primitive church called the Sabbath." (Timothy Dwight's Theology (American Congregationalist) says: Sermon 107 (1818 ed.), vol. 4, p. 49).

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST:

Sabbath day worship could never have been changed to first day worship.

"'But,' say some, 'it was changed from the seventh to the first day.' Where? when? and by whom? No man can tell. No; it never was changed, nor could it be, unless Creation was to be gone through again: for the reason assigned must be changed before the observance, or respect to the reason, can be changed !

"It is all old wives' fables to talk of the change of the sabbath from the seventh to the first day. If it be changed, it was that august personage changed it who changes times and laws 'ex officio' I think his name is Doctor Antichrist." (Alexander Campbell (the founder of the Disciples of Christ); The Christian Baptist, Feb. 1, 1824, vol. 1, no. 7).

"The first day of the week is commonly called the Sabbath. This is a mistake. The Sabbath of the Bible was the day just preceding the first day of the week. The first day of the week is never called the Sabbath anywhere in the entire Scriptures. It is also an error to talk about the change of the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday. There is not in any place in the Bible any intimation of such a change." (First Day Observance, pp. 17, 19).

LUTHERAN:

Sabbath day worship practiced by early church.

"We have seen how gradually the impression of the Jewish sabbath faded from the mind of the Christian Church, and how completely the newer thought underlying the observance of the first day took possession of the church. We have seen that the Christians of the first three centuries never confused one with the other, but for a time celebrated both." (The Sunday Problem (1923 ed.), a study book of the United Lutheran Churches, p. 36).

Sunday worship has always been a human tradition.

"The festival of Sunday, like all other festivals, was always only a human ordinance, and it was far from the intentions of the apostles to establish a divine command in this respect; far from them, and from the early apostolic church, to transfer the laws of the Sabbath to Sunday." (The History of the Christian Religion and Church, Dr. Augustus Neander, p. 186).

METHODIST:

Other non-biblical practices are excused because of worshipping on Sunday.

"It is true there is no positive command for infant baptism ... Nor is there any for keeping holy the first day of the week." (Methodist Episcopal Theological Compend, by Amos Binney, pp. 180, 181).

Today many Protestant denominations attempt to use isolated scriptures and human-logic to "prove" that Sunday is now the Christian's day of worship. However, their attempts are in fact baseless. **The leaders of the Catholic Church and the Protestant denominations know that there is not one scripture in the Bible which gives YHWH's permission to worship Him on any other day except on the Sabbath day.**

This single fact reduces all of their spiritual sounding logic and quotations of isolated scriptures into the domain of "human reasoning". Other men are not a Christian person's authority, and neither is a church denomination, as it is YHWH who will personally judge each man according to his works [Rev. 20:13, 22:12].

(12) Sabbath Day Worship And Christian Salvation

There is no doubt, historically or biblically, that YHWH intends for Christians to worship Him and His son Yahoshua The Messiah on the Sabbath day, which is Saturday by our Roman calendar. But what about the millions of Christians which are not doing this, and are worshipping "The Lord" on Sunday? To ask the question in the language of most Protestant denominations, **"Is Sabbath keeping required for salvation?"** The answer is: **"No, because you are asking the wrong question"**.

Salvation is given to a Christian by YHWH's own sovereign choice. Salvation is given as a gift, and is made possible through the blood of Yahoshua the risen Messiah. An individual's own righteous conduct does not obligate YHWH to give him salvation. There is nothing that a Christian can do, or not do, which will obligate YHWH to bestow His gift of salvation. No "work" or combination of "works" can force YHWH to give you salvation. Therefore, obligating YHWH to give you salvation is not the reason a person lives a good Christian lifestyle. Likewise, keeping the Sabbath will not obligate YHWH to give you salvation either. So, "Is Sabbath keeping required for salvation?" this is not the right question to ask.

What then does Sabbath keeping gain a Christian? Well, what is the gain and purpose of doing anything good and righteous? Why be good, why not be bad, since salvation is a gift, why not just enjoy? The answer is: that obedience and good works builds a righteous trustworthy character, and it is the basis for receiving good rewards in eternity.

Once a Christian is given salvation, they are then also given rewards by Yahoshua The Messiah for what they have done. The amount of reward given is based upon life's deeds. When discussing subjects like the Sabbath, or any other topic dealing with Christian conduct, a Christian's salvation is not at issue, but his integrity and the quality of reward that will be received is the focus of discussion.

Since very few modern denominations teach about this distinction between gaining salvation and receiving rewards, included below are a few scriptures which describe this distinction:

I Corinthians 3:6, "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. 7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. 8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. 9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. 10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. 11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Yahoshua The Messiah. 12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; 13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. 16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? 17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."

I John 3:4, "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. 5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. 6 Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. 7 Little children, let no man deceive you: **he that doeth righteousness is righteous**, even as he is righteous."

Colossians 3:24, "Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons."

Luke 19:15, "And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. 16 Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. 17 And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, **have thou authority over ten cities**. 18 And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. 19 And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities."

Revelation 2:23, "... and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works."

Receiving Salvation is one topic, but once you have received salvation and are living for all eternity, the quality of Rewards for what you have done becomes very important.

(13) Conclusion

By YHWH's sovereign grace Christians are saved through our Lord Yahoshua The Messiah. Christians are to live their lives in such a manner which shows their love and integrity to YHWH, a lifestyle which is pleasing to YHWH, which will also show others about Yahoshua The Messiah through example. Yahoshua The Messiah warned about listening to preachers who use His name, but in actual fact are leading people into errors and false lifestyles. Bad lifestyles reduce a Christian's rewards, and this is not good. Therefore keeping the Sabbath should be part of every Christian's lifestyle.

The practice of worshipping YHWH on Sunday instead of on the Sabbath Day is a deception. This deception has been forcefully and purposefully taught as "The Truth" by the bishops of Rome for over 1670 years. The other side of this issue, the telling of the story about the other Christian Bishops who refused to go along with Sun - Day worship, has deliberately not been taught. Today, most people are completely unaware that Sunday worship has no basis in scripture, that Sunday worship was rejected by most of the early church leaders, that the Protestant denomination leaders actually know this as a fact, **and that Sunday worship observance is the single proof of a person yielding to the authority of the priesthood of the Catholic Church.**

In contrast, the Sabbath day is the memorial of YHWH's creation. It represents the day of rest, specifically set aside by the Creator Himself who "saluted" that set aside time. This is in contrast to the day men have set aside to worship their gods. To worship YHWH and Yahoshua The Messiah on the Sabbath day, the

only day YHWH has set aside as being holy time, recognizes that YHWH is the authority on earth, not men, and not any Church.

May YHWH the sovereign Creator of the universe grant you grace through His Son Yahoshua The Messiah, and lead you into a more rewarding Christian lifestyle.